REMARKS

Claims 7, 8, 10-14, and 16-18 are pending in the application. Claims 9 and 15 have been canceled.

Specification

Minor changes have been made to the specification to place it in better form for U.S. practice.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 7-8, 10-14, and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 9 so that it now claims "input means," which makes the claimed invention statutory, to overcome this rejection .

Similarly, independent claim 13 has been amended to include all of the limitations of clam 15 so that it now claims "input means," which makes the claimed invention statutory, to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Seifert (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0068543).

Further, claims 9 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seifert in view of Malik (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0065891).

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Yet further, claims 12 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seifert in view of Nishida (U.S.P. 6,972,858).

The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 13 have been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 9 and 15, respectively. Claims 9 and 15 have been canceled.

Upon rejecting claims 9 and 15, the Examiner acknowledges that Seifert does not disclose wherein said controller is further capable of accepting only an address containing the partial address registered in the storing unit from input. Therefore, the Examiner relies on the Malik reference and states that it discloses this feature. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In Malik, when the domain name checker 22 receives an e-mail, the checker 22 then searches the domain name data base 20 for existence of a domain name of the received e-mail. When the domain name does not currently exist, the domain name of the received e-mail will be stored in the domain name data base 20 (see paragraphs [0031]-[0033]). Furthermore, when a user transmits an e-mail, the domain name checker 22 extracts a domain name from the address of the e-mail to be transmitted to compare the domain name with that stored in the domain name data base 20. When these domain names do not match, the checker 22 instructs the user to check the e-mail address. The user who has received the instruction can then decide whether to confirm the e-mail address, correct the e-mail address (communication), or cancel delivery. Additionally, Malik describes that <u>when the user confirms the e-mail address, transmission of the e-mail can be performed, and then, the domain name of the confirmed e-mail address may be added to the domain name data base 20</u> (see paragraphs [0037] and [0038]).

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Therefore, in Malik, all domain names of received email addresses are stored in the domain name database 20. Furthermore, when an email is transmitted, a domain name of the e-mail to be transmitted is compared with that stored in the domain name database 20. In such a case, when a user confirms the e-mail address, even an e-mail containing a domain name which does not match that stored in the domain name database 20 is transmitted. Thus, in Malik, the transmission of e-mails is not be limited to only an address containing a domain name matched with that stored in the domain name database 20. To the contrary, in the claimed invention of the present application, transmission of data is limited to only an address containing the partial address registered in the storing unit.

Accordingly, independent claims 7 and 13 are allowable at least for the reasons stated in the foregoing.

Claims 8 and 10-12, dependent on claim 7, are is allowable at least for their dependency on claim 7.

Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claims 14 and 16-18, dependent on claim 13, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 13.

Claim 15 has been canceled.

In view of this the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi, Reg. No. 40,417, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,
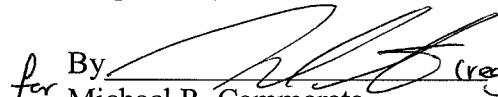
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